

BULLETIN OF
THE NEW YORK ACADEMY
OF MEDICINE



VOL. 59, No. 5

JUNE 1983

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS *

HAROLD C. NEU, M.D.

Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases
College of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University
New York, New York

ORAL antibiotic therapy is of great current interest. As physicians become more interested in the problems of cost containment and the need to get patients out of the hospital quickly, either so they can go back to work or to free beds for other patients, attempts have been made to improve outpatient therapy with oral antibiotics.

One development that may increase the bioavailability of oral antibiotics is the use of prodrugs. These are drugs that have a side ester chain, allowing for increased oral absorption and providing blood levels similar to the blood levels that can be achieved with either intramuscular or intravenous therapy. Both pediatricians and internists have assembled to review the problem of drug delivery and to attempt to delineate areas in which oral therapy is appropriate. This symposium will also review our knowledge of antibiotic inhibitory quotients and how these values relate to the

*Presented as part of a *Symposium on Recent Developments in Oral Antibiotic Therapy: Bacampicillin Update* held by the Section on Pediatrics and the Section on Medicine of the New York Academy of Medicine December 19, 1982. This symposium was supported by a grant from Roerig, division of Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.

use of oral compounds. Further, the use of sequential oral therapy will be reviewed and the use of oral prodrugs in the treatment of sinusitis and bronchitis in adults will be analyzed, particularly with regard to tissue concentrations.

These considerations—use of oral agents, characteristics of the prodrug, use of the inhibitory quotient, administration of sequential parenteral-oral therapy in serious infections, oral therapy of sinusitis, otitis media, bronchitis, and pneumonia—will all be illustrated in several reports on one particular drug, bacampicillin.

It is hoped that this meeting of the Pediatrics and Medicine Sections of the Academy will be one in which both groups will benefit from the exchange of new ideas about oral drug administration.